



NEW JERSEY
WEEKLY CROP WEATHER

New Jersey
Agricultural Statistics Service

In Cooperation With:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Commerce/N.O.A.A.
Rutgers University

NOAA WEATHER RADIO STATIONS

- Allentown**
WXL-39 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
- Atlantic City**
KHB-38 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
- New York City**
KWO-35 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 160.55 Megahertz.
- Philadelphia**
KIH-28 on the VHF-FM
frequency of 162.475 Megahertz.

NEW JERSEY AUCTIONS

- Vineland**
Phone: (856)691-0721
Sales 10:00AM Daily except Sunday.
- Landisville**
Phone: (856)697-2273
Direct Sales Daily
- Swedesboro**
Phone: (856)476-0313
- Hightstown**
Phone: (609)448-0193
Auction Sales Mon-Wed-Fri-7pm

Volume 67

No. 6

Date: May 16, 2005

Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania

Issued by Rutgers University New Brunswick NJ

8 am EDT Monday, May 16, 2005

Rainfall amounts, none expected through Tuesday.

Winds for spraying, northwest 5 to 10 mph today, light north wind tonight, variable 5 to 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent, 40 to 50 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 40 to 50 Tuesday.

Dew points, generally in the low to mid 40s through Tuesday.

Drying conditions, good today and Tuesday.

Frost freeze or dew, light dew tonight and again Tuesday night.

Percent of possible sunshine, 60 today, 60 Tuesday.

There is a 10 percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm that could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain free period after application.

Temperatures in the representative cranberry could fall to 29 to 33 tonight and again Tuesday night.

Hay cutting will see good drying today through Wednesday but then with a slight risk of showers Wednesday night and Thursday.

Four inch soil temperatures are in the upper 50s north and low 60s central and south. Soil temperatures will hold steady over the next few days.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period May 23, 2005 to May 29, 2005 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to total below normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8 am May 16, 2005

Temperatures averaged above normal north, near normal central and below normal south, averaging 62 degrees north, 61 degrees central and 60 degrees south. Extremes were 86 degrees at Belvidere Bridge on May 10, 2005, and 33 degrees at Charlotteburg on May 13, 2005.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.32 inches north, 0.00 inches central, and 0.04 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.61 inches at Charlotteburg on May 12, 2005 through May 13, 2005.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 72 percent north, 71 percent central and 53 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 58 degrees north, 58 degrees central and 59 degrees south.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending 8 am Monday, May 16, 2005

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days 1/		Soil Moisture 2/
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week						
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
- Inches - - Degrees - - Base 50°F -										
NORTH										
Belvidere Bridge	.46	9.54	-.11	86	37	62	2	236	81	76
Canoe Brook	.00	9.09	-1.55	84	35	62	3	265	131	70
Charlotteburg	.72	12.01	1.53	83	33	61	4	184	108	77
Flemington	.02	10.95	.83	84	39	62	2	226	81	67
Newton	.41	9.95	.62	82	36	61	3	204	103	73
CENTRAL										
Freehold	.00	11.25	1.18	82	40	62	1	254	66	70
Long Branch	DATA NOT AVAILABLE									
New Brunswick	.00	9.26	-.56	81	42	62	1	244	31	76
Toms River	.00	9.97	-.12	81	39	59	-2	193	20	57
Trenton	.00	8.29	-.82	80	41	62	0	249	8	49
SOUTH										
Cape May C.H.	.12	7.63	-1.21	74	40	56	-5	139	-73	48
Downstown	.02	8.98	-.11	81	37	60	-2	218	-34	51
Glassboro	.00	9.89	.26	80	48	63	1	292	51	44
Hammonton	.01	8.83	-.54	82	38	60	-2	232	-1	39
Pomona	.01	8.59	-.23	79	38	57	-4	168	-23	54
Seabrook	.05	9.43	1.18	80	44	63	0	327	70	45
South Harrison	.01	9.64	.29	79	45	61	NA	281	NA	NA

*Departure from normal.
1/ Growing degree days since March 1, 2005, total and departure from normal or long term average.
2/ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

Weather Conditions Favorable for Field Work

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, May 15, 2005, were 6.7. Topsoil moisture was rated 45% short and 55% adequate. Irrigation water supply was rated 100% adequate. There were trace amounts of rainfall during the week in some localities. Temperatures were variable across most of the state for the week. Agricultural producers continued field preparation for summer crops. Other activities included field crop planting, fertilizing, herbicide and pesticide spraying, tending greenhouses, and transplanting greenhouse crops. Some cranberry bogs required irrigation to prevent frost. Planting of soybeans began in the northern and central districts. Field corn planting continued throughout the state, and in some central and southern fields had begun to emerge. Wheat had started to head in some central fields, and barley fields were mostly headed in some areas of the south. The first cutting of hay started in some southern localities. There was a report of serial rust mite in some other hay fields in the central district. In the south, producers began to plant beds of sweet potatoes and potato plants had emerged. Summer vegetable seeding continued. There was harvest of leek, chive, arugula, green onions, radishes, cilantro, escarole, kale, Swiss chard, mint, spinach, and parsley. Harvest of asparagus continued. Blueberry plants were past bloom, and strawberry harvest began, in areas of the south. Small grains and hay crops were rated in mostly good condition across the state. Pasture condition was rated mostly fair and was slow to respond due to lack of surface moisture.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR MAY 16, 2005

Arugula & Baby Arugula - Being harvested in good volume and quality.

Asparagus - Good quality being harvested in good volume.

Beets - Harvest just beginning this week.

Cilantro & Dill - Spring planted available in fair quantity and good quality.

Dandelions - Spring planted available in fair quantity and good quality.

Escarole/Endive - Some minor quantities of product started under plastic available but the main harvest should begin late next week.

Leeks - A small volume of over-wintered product is available now and for some time. Transplanted leeks should be available by mid-June. Spring planted varieties due in July.

Lettuces - Harvesting Red and Green Leaf and Boston in fair quantities and good quality. Just beginning to harvest Romaine in light quantities and good quality.

Parsley - Over-wintered product is available in light quantity.

Radishes - Being harvested in fair volume and good quality.

Spinach & Baby Spinach - Baby available in good quantity and quality. A small volume of over-wintered product is still available. Spring planted will start to be available later this week.

Strawberries - Early harvests have begun, though the bulk of the crop will be harvested towards the end of the month, with lower volumes to continue through the first week of June. Our Chandler variety berries are picked when ripe and have more red interior color than white since they're physically more mature and ripe. They're grown in raised beds, under black plastic, with a large berry size and excellent taste.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Basil - Should start harvesting in three weeks.

Blueberries - Minor quantities of early varieties like Weymouth starting around June 18th. Much more widely planted Duke variety starting 3-4 days later with volume available a week after that.

Cabbage - Harvest should begin in early June.

Collards - Should begin harvesting next week.

Cucumbers - Should begin harvesting by the end of the month.

Squash - Should begin harvesting Yellow and Zucchini grown in tunnels by the end of the month. Field grown by early June.

Turnips - Should begin harvesting around the end of May.